

the great mountain wilderness around the head of Spring Creek and but for one more tragedy she rounded out a peaceful and contented life in her mountain home.

In 1880 the country rang with the news of the killing of Thomas Reed by Kenos Douglas. Douglas lay in a laurel patch for five weeks in the dead of winter, but was captured and given a life sentence. Kenos was a son of Joshua and Nancy Hart Douglas. This is the story of a heroine of the Civil War.

From--1926 Blue Book

By---Andrew Price

(I have made considerable inquiry about this woman and as near as I can find out she lived Pocahontas and the Reeds lived in Greenbrier, and for that reason the trial was held at Lewisburg.)

JOHN BROWN IN POCAHONTAS

John Brown of Harper's Ferry bought wool in this county in the 1850's. He spent Sunday in Marlinton. Held family prayer but did not kneel. He sat in his chair talking to God. Was a deeply religious man who would not travel on Sunday.

From--1926 Blue Book

By ---Andrew Price

Juanita S. Dilley
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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

June 26, 1940

Chapter 4 section 5

THE COMING OF JAMES HENRY G. WILSON TO MARLINTON

About the year 1894, the Prices one day received a letter from Wilson in England saying he was just out of college, of athletic turn, with a thousand pounds capital, and would like to obtain footing in the United States. They wrote him to come and see for himself. About the first of September he came with his boxes, driving through from Belington in a spring wagon he had chartered there; a little drive of 70 miles. He had lost his way and suffered exhaustion. The right way would have been to come to Millboro, Va. where he could have gotten here in 46 miles and his boxes would have come by covered wagon trains that ran summer and winter.

But he found comfortable quarters and an understanding people. He even found a countryman already stopping here. The first evening they made a bet. Wilson bet the other that he, the tenderfoot, would catch a hundred bass before winter set in, and by the way he won the bet to the astonishment of everyone. The people of Marlinton knew how to deal with Englishmen. Three cardinal rules: Ask no prying questions, give him a bed to himself, and a small hand tub to bathe in, and the world is his. It was in this way that James Henry G. Wilson came to Marlinton where he spent the rest of his life. He was just out of Oxford, and he had played on the *rugby* football team, he had also played as an international. He got stuck with a horse

the day after he arrived, a kind of an outlaw among horses,
heavy on his feet and with a mean disposition. Wilson changed
his name to Satan. Afterwards when he had become an expert wi-
th horses he acquired Toby the beautiful sorrel, and the dog
Major. The trio were known and welcome far and wide.

From-Blue Book--1928

By---Andrew Price

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
March 1881

Battle of Droop Mountain

Gettysburg
History

By Pella F. Yeager ✓

This was a decisive battle in that it expelled the Confederates from that section of N. Va. and from there on to the end of the war.

Source -

Wonderful Scenic Views and Flashbacks
of American History by
Colonel William S. Waldron
U.S. Army

Hella F. Yeager

James Charleston paper -1-
about 1863

WONDERFUL SCENIC VIEWS AND FLASHES
OF AMERICAN HISTORY

By Colonel William S. Waldron,
U. S. Army

BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN

Droop M

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Jan 6

One day as you go bowling along over the Seneca Trail (Route 219) enjoying the scenic beauties of West Virginia you will come to a roadside marker, about thirty miles north of Lewisburg, which informs you that you are nearing "Droop Mountain Battlefield." A little further on you will see the massive rustic portals, constructed by the State Conservation Commission and the CCC boys, which mark the entrance to this historic spot-- a place where brothers crossed swords in mighty conflict for a cause in which each one of them believed.

Now, if you read on, it looks like you are in for a brief history lesson--a thing which you dread, but which will stand you in good stead when you visit this hallowed ground, direct your mind back over a space of 73 years and try to visualize what happened here.

The year 1863 was an important milestone in the history of West Virginia. It was on June 20th of that year that our fathers chose to separate from the Old Dominion and become a member of the family of states in their own right.

The Confederate Forces

At that time there was a Confederate force composed largely of Virginia cavalry and some artillery, and numbering about 4,000 men, under the command of General John Echols, which was based on Lewisburg and extended far up the Greenbrier Valley toward Durbin.

They formed a sort of outpost designed to protect Virginia from a Federal attack from the west. They lived on the country and found good pickings for man and beast from the rich bluegrass region.

A small Federal force under command of General William W. Averell and based on Elkins opposed the Confederates. Their mission was to protect the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the main Federal line of rail communication from east to west. They were not of sufficient strength to undertake offensive operations against the Confederates and had to content themselves to play the role of an observation force.

On the Kanawha River at the mouth of Gauley there was another small force of Federals under the command of General A. N. Duffie, with the mission of preventing a Confederate movement down the Kanawha towards the Ohio River.

Following General Lee's 1863 invasion of the north, which ended in disaster at Gettysburg, Averell's command was reinforced and he was ordered to drive the Confederates out of the Greenbrier Valley. These reinforcements brought his strength up to about 5000 men, which gave him a small superiority in numbers. General Averell requisitioned horses from the nearby farms in the Tygart valley country and mounted much of his infantry, thus making his command about of equal mobility with that of his opponents.

Preliminary Operations

General Averell ordered General Duffie to march from Gauley Bridge to Lewisburg so as to arrive there on the afternoon of November 7. With his own command he marched south, leaving Beverly on November 1, and drove back the Confederate patrols that

occupied the northern reaches of the valley. When he learned that Averell was marching down the valley, General Echols proceeded to Droop Mountain with his main body, while he took up a defensive position with the idea of providing a rallying point for his advanced troops which were being driven back by the Federals, there to make a stand and stop the further advance of Averell. A line of breastworks and gun positions was constructed across the main road, which we now know as the "Seneca Trail" (Route 219) where it crosses the mountain.

Apparently General Echols had learned of the approach of General Duffie's force coming east from Gauley Bridge but left no considerable force at Lewisburg to oppose him. Averell's main body arrived in the vicinity of Hillsboro on the evening of November 4th. They established their outposts close to the foot of Droop Mountain and started immediately with the reconnaissance of the Confederate position. The entire day of November 5 was consumed in this reconnaissance, which developed the fact that the position was too strong to be taken to direct assault. There was a lot of skirmishing during the day and that evening General *Averell* decided upon his plan of battle. In the meantime General Duffie was approaching Lewisburg from the west.

The Battle

Early on the morning of November 6, 1865, General Averell dispatched a force of about 1100 men composed of the 18th Ohio Infantry and the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry to march west and south on the Lobelia road, a detour of six miles, to attack the left flank and rear of the Confederate position on Droop Mountain. He

also sent a small detachment out to the east to demonstrate against the right flank of the Confederate position,

General Echols was content to defend his strong position on the mountain and apparently had no information that a federal force was approaching on his left flank.

At 1:45 p m, just when the skirmishing along the front was at its height, the Federal right flanking detachment broke in on the left flank and rear of the Confederate position, Averell pushed forward his assault up the mountain on the front and the left flanking detachment closed in. Echols threw in part of his reserves to stem the tide and for a short period of time there was some desperate fighting on top of the mountain. Seeing that the Federal right flank force was closing in on his rear in an endeavor to gain the road to Lewisburg, Echols sent in the last of his reserves and all of the troops he could withdraw from the main position to counter this move. He succeeded in doing so and managed to withdraw his whole command and get it on the road to Lewisburg. By four o'clock in the afternoon his troops were on the road in more or less orderly formation and covered by an organized rear guard which covered the retreat. His rear guard passed through Lewisburg at about ten o'clock on the forenoon of November 7, just as Duffie's advance guard reached the western entrance of the town.

Averell did not push the pursuit too vigorously because he thought that Duffie would be able to cut off the Confederates at Lewisburg. But by marching all night and the fact that his mounts were rested and fresh, Echols was able to save practically his entire command to fight another day. The Confederates continued their retreat on down through Union and crossed over into Virginia at Peterstown.

Decisive Battle

The Battle of Droop Mountain was a decisive battle in that it expelled the Confederates from that section of West Virginia and from then on to the end of the war between the states, West Virginia was Federal territory.

In his report of the battle, General Echols states: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery which broke down completely during the retreat and had to be left, this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can "boast." This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, and although diligent search has been made it has not yet been found. It is hoped that it will be located in due time.

In the course of the conflict, Colonel James Cochran, commander of the 14th Virginia cavalry, was surrounded by a squad of Union soldiers and apparently doomed to capture. By some means, however, he managed to escape. Later in relating the story, he was asked why, under the circumstances, he did not surrender, Colonel Cochran replied: "If they had said 'Colonel, surrender' I would have done so. But they said, 'stop, you blankety-blank red-headed son of a gun,' and I would not accommodate any man who used such language to me."

The Federal troops engaged numbered 4,700 and suffered a loss of 130 casualties. The Confederates had 3950 engaged and their losses were about 400 men.

Troops Engaged

On the Federal side the organizations were the 28th Ohio Infantry, Col. A Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Infantry, Col. F. W. Thompson; 8th West Virginia Infantry, Co. J. H. Oley; 14th Penn Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; and Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B and G, 1st West Virginia Light Artillery.

The Confederate organizations engaged were the 22nd Infantry Col. C. S. Patton; First Battalion 23rd Virginia Infantry, Major William Blessing; 19th Virginia Cavalry, Col. W. P. Thompson; 20th Virginia cavalry, Col. W. W. Arnett; 14th Virginia Cavalry, Col. James Cochran; 16th Virginia Cavalry, Co. Ferguson and an artillery detachment of two ~~battalions~~ battalions and two batteries.

Last year the State Conservation Commission, headed by Major H. W. Shawhan, acquired the site of the battle of Droop Mountain and for more than 14 months Company 2598 CCC, under the command of Capt. E. R. Howery, and directed by the efficient technical service at Camp Price, has been engaged in the task of restoring the battlefield to its war time aspect and transforming it into a public park, which the people of West Virginia, and visitors to the state may have the privilege of enjoying on their motor trips through that section of the country. A map of the battlefield has been prepared and is available to visitors at Droop Mountain. The gun placements, trenches and breastworks are to be restored and points of interest are to be marked permanently.

The public is cordially invited to visit the Battlefield of Droop Mountain, with a confidence that they will there find something that will interest them. It is to be hoped that this flash

After The Civil War.

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March 27, 1940

of State History will have served the purpose of inducing
them to do so.

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
March 27, 1940.

After The Civil War.

Because of the division of sentiment Pocahontas County suffered far more than other counties farther north or south. In many instances brother fought against brother. After the war was over, it was a subject not talked about because of the intense feeling that survived the war.

It used to make the Confederates grit their teeth when they saw the Union soldiers wear their blue army overcoats. When the first grand jury met, after the war, the blue overcoats predominated and the Confederates said it looked like a squad of Union soldiers.

(My grandfather I. W. Poage would never wear blue nor allow any member of his family to do so. He always said "You look to much like a ---- Yankie".)

When the first grand jury met was a sad day for the Confederates for most of the prominent Confederate warriors were indicted upon charges ranging from murder down. But the resentment occasioned by the war became somewhat mellowed by the wisdom of the leading men and a condition of toleration was produced. While the soldiers continued to vote as they had shot, it was nothing more than healthy rivalry, and they worked together very well.

From 1928 W. Va. Blue
Book .

By, Andrew Price.

After the Civil War the Confederate soldiers were deprived of the rights of citizenship by their inability to take the test oath. Before a man could vote, hold office, practice law and so forth, he must swear that he had not sided or abetted the Confederacy. This did not please Captain D. A. Stofer who had been captain of the "Pocahontas Rescuers" and of Co. 1, 25th Virginia Inf. At the first opportunity he presented himself at the bar as a practicing attorney, took the oath and resumed his law work, where he left off. After four years of service in the army of the Confederate States. The grand jury indicted him for perjury and he appealed to the Supreme Court, where the